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P.O. Box 232, Bonita, CA 91908 www.sweetwatervalleyca.org

**SWEETWATER VALLEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
January 5, 2022**

Draft

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Judy Tieber via Zoom. She welcomed everyone to the meeting. We began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Judy asked a moment of silence to honor the men and women of our Armed Forces, Law Enforcement, Fire and Safety Professionals; and an appreciation of those currently serving to protect us, including Health Care workers and Teaching Professionals.

Directors Present: Judy Tieber, Steve Stonehouse, Tony Tieber, Mike Clowers, and Sharon Coleman.

Members Present: Daryl Hern, John & Harriet Taylor, Jim Woodford, Jamie Tobitt, Jim Groth, and Mike Seiler, Susan Heavilin

Guests Present: Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Chief Michael Sims, Andrew Harvey from Supervisor District 1, Nora Vargas' Office, Christopher Frantz from Representative Sara Jacobs Office, Amanda Angulo from Council member John McCann's office, CHP Officer Salvador Castro, and Rene Vidales of the County of San Diego, Program Coordinator, Watershed Protection Program. Other guests present were Barbara Poukkula. The following only showed first names and the device they were using: James' iPad, and Liz CA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Judy asked for a motion to approve minutes. Judy moved to approve; Daryl Hern provided the second. Minutes approved as written.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Stephen Stonehouse reported the January 2021 Treasurer's Report.

	<u>January</u>
Checking	\$1,426.19
Certificate of Deposit	\$2,464.46
Ending Balance	\$3,890.65

There were expenses for supplies, KIG web Services, and postal box rent. Income came from Membership Receipts

The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

Fire Safety: Bonita Fire Chief Mike Sims: The Chief report that in 2021, the Fire Department made the most calls they had ever made; more than 1800 (5 per day). Chief Sims reported on the plane crash in El Cajon. Four people, all medical personnel, were in the Lear Jet. Nobody on the ground was injured and no property was damaged. Unfortunately, all four people in the plane perished. The Bonita Sunnyside crew had zone responsibility and was on-site to provide leadership and assistance. Bottom Line, it was a team effort of all assisting fire crews and support staff.

Chief Sims reported that he did receive a grant from the County of San Diego based on his proposal submission. His department is currently getting paperwork in order for a contract with a tree cutting service. The work on the trees will be done by both fire department personnel and the selected contractor.

Law Enforcement Reports:

CHP, Officer Salvador Castro: Officer Castro reported that their toy drive was successful and that some deliveries to children are still in progress. The CHP has been participating in a COVID vaccination and testing site. Officer Castro also reported the recovery of several stolen vehicles in Bonita. Officer Castro reported that he is trying hard to get out to Bonita to monitor traffic and is talking to other staff members regarding the best places to enforce traffic rules and regulations in Bonita. However, currently, the CHP is short-staffed, so he only gets to Bonita once a week. Officer Castro said that only 3 units work the South Bay and that between the hours of 3:00 and 7:00 PM, it is really difficult to get to Bonita because of all the other traffic calls. During the holidays, the CHP was using a "Maximum Enforcement Policy", one goal of which was to protect kids. During the Enforcement period there were 4 fatalities compared to 15 a year ago. In his division, there were 59 DUIs and 53 other arrests. Statewide there were 430 DUIs and 442 other arrests.

The CHP officer addressed signs along San Miguel Road, notifying us that the signs need to be reorientated or else the CHP can't enforce the intent of the signs. He mentioned that with Park Rangers intervention, the CHP had recovered several stolen cars at the campground. He indicated the Park Rangers were helpful in recovering the stolen vehicles and that the number of stolen cars at the campground had decreased.

Tony asked Officer Castro to send the statistics to him via email. Sharon Coleman said that speeding continues on Winnetka, and Mike Clowers reminded the officer and everyone else that school starts on Monday (January 10, 2022) and that after the 3-week vacation, everyone will have to be careful. Officer Castro indicated that he would try to get to Bonita on that day. Mike also reported, that in his opinion, motor bike officers are more efficient at enforcing traffic laws and that he was disappointed that we no longer have a community officer. Harriet Taylor reported that she thought a left turn lane was warranted at Sunnyside Elementary school, but that the County thinks a traffic study is necessary before they will consider the left turn signal. Officer Castro responded that the issue was a county problem and not directly related to the CHP.

A discussion arose about the CHP and short staffing. Officer Castro mentioned that their division is scheduled to get 5 new officer trainees in 2022, and they should arrive between February and April. People wanted to know who to contact at a higher management level to get more CHP officers. Officer Castro said he would inquire about overtime. Apparently, there is money available for more CHP officers, but so far none has been assigned. Also, Supervisor Vargas is in the process of addressing the officer shortage with the Sheriff's department. Both the Supervisor and the Sheriff are interested in solving the shortage. Officer Castro indicated that recruitment is not easy and is time consuming. Mike Seiler asked about the reporting of DUI arrests for alcohol versus arrest for drugs, even prescription drugs. Officer Castro indicated there is no distinction on reports when both drugs and alcohol are involved and is recorded as a DUI. If only drugs are involved, there is a category for that. Mike Seiler also talked about new housing developments that allocate funding for the CHP. The problem, in Mike's opinion, is that the allocated funding is not being used for new officer staffing. Mike thinks the County of San Diego and the Sheriff needed to take action on this. Jim Groth reported that on Saturdays, many bicyclists from out of the area come to the bike park. Travel on San Miguel Road and Proctor Valley Road seem to be more problematic on Saturday. Jim also reminded everyone about the upcoming Solar Construction at Sunnyside Elementary School. He reminded everyone this will affect traffic and

parking. Lastly Officer Castro voiced concern about organized crime related to crime at malls and small businesses. The CHP will often receive calls to support these investigations. He also submitted that he is very busy, and that sometime low priority calls take a lot of time.

Sheriff Dept. Crime Prevention Specialist, Julio Garcia: Julio was unable to attend this meeting

Chula Vista Police Officer: Not represent.

Elected Representative Reports:

House of Representatives Sara Jacobs' Office Christopher Frantz: Representative Jacobs was in San Diego Mid-December to judge the holiday light theme contest between Naval ships. She submitted 4 candidates for Armed Forces academies. They were recommended to the Academy of their choice. Representative Jacobs has advocated for funding of organizations within her district specifically funding for childcare, libraries and other worthwhile projects. She will be in San Diego in January from the 10-17 and from the 22-31. She is looking for events she can attend.

Council Member John McCann Representative Amanda Angulo: Amanda reported that Councilmember John McCann wished everyone a Happy New year. She acknowledge the Republic Services strike but indicated she had no specific details on negotiations. She indicated that Councilmember McCann was working with the Chula Vista City Council to ensure that trash was picked up. There appears to be a plan in place for trash but not for recyclables or yard waste. In a Zoom message, Amanda notified everyone who needs trash pickup to email her with their name and address. Her email is aangulo@chulavistaca.gov and she will contact Republic Services. Barbara Poukkula commented that even EDCO is not picking up at her house and she has spent hours on the phone trying to get information on when they will service her house. For the past year, Councilmember McCann was the Deputy mayor of Chula Vista. His term as Deputy has now ended. During his term he has advocated for the Rohr Park Dog Exercise facility, the Golf Course, and the new Basketball court in Rohr Park. He is very interested in improving Rohr Park and wants to develop a Park Master Plan.

Judy commented about the inaction at the Berdeski shopping center on Bonita Road. Judy also commented that there are not enough Chula Vista police officers in the Bonita area to assist the CHP in traffic enforcement. Amanda indicated that she would bring this to Councilman McCann's attention. Harriet Taylor commented that she believes that Councilmember McCann should solicit more input from the citizens of Bonita regarding Rohr Park. Jamie Tobitt talked about the Republic Services strike specifically that there was a lack of communication with the people they service. Hence, they lack strike status updates. He was also concerned that Republic is asking people to pay their bills without providing service. He indicated people want action and hopes the Federal Mediator will be successfully bring Republic and its workers to an agreeable compromise. Mike Seiler thought that San Diego County and the City of Chula Vista need to think more creatively about trash collection. For example, in the Bonita Highlands there are multiple Trash servicing companies. Why not contract with one of the companies not on strike. Harriet Taylor commented that EDCO picks up Styrofoam and does not send it to the Land Fill. Tony comment that Republic Services has just raised his rate by 22%.

Andrew Harvey, Supervisor Nora Vargas Representative: Andrew reported COVID is on the rise in San Diego County and that 3000 cases were reported the day of the SVCA Zoom meeting.

He indicated that testing is in high demand. Stephen talked about statistics related to COVID; specifically, he wanted to know if there was a breakdown between vaccinated and unvaccinated people who were testing positive. Andrew said he would get back with that data.

Harriet recommended that Andrew discuss with Supervisor Vargas the possibility of sending the Planning Commissioner, responsible for Bonita to a Planning Group meeting. Perhaps even discuss that the commissioner takes a tour of Bonita. Jim Woodford talked about a grant that apparently was issued to the Kiwanis Club but apparently never approved by the Board of Supervisors. Andrew said that he would check on it.

Stephen commented that the "Sand Barrel" protecting the wall barricade on Frisbee Street had fallen over and that action was required. He also indicated that someone had to remove the tumbleweeds on the LaFinca property that were blocking the riding and hiking trail.

Jim Groth was interested in County staffing which he believed was inadequate. He based this on maintenance that is required, including the removal of graffiti. He postulated that the hiring process needed to be improved with consideration to increased benefits. That might get more candidates. He concluded that fortunately the rain had reduced the fire hazards.

New Business. Guest Speaker. Judy introduced Rene Vidales, who is the County of San Diego's Program Coordinator for the Watershed Protection Program. His presentation was for a project called "Green Streets" which ultimately is a clean stormwater plan. Rene told us that the project was started in December 2020 and was needed to become compliant with state law which essentially dictates that polluted storm water cannot be passed downstream. His group is part of the County Public Works Department, and the county is a pioneer in the effort to keep polluted water from moving downstream. This effort will require the redesign of roads to eliminate pollutants.

The Sweetwater Valley is part of the San Diego Bay Watershed, and the purpose of Green Streets is to filter water and improve the appearance of the surrounding area where the water is filtered. This involves filtering both wet and dry pollutants. Most of the filtering is performed underground, so there is generally none of the equipment visible at street level. The underground system needs to capture pollutants and recharge the water passed downstream. One goal is to make trees in the filter area grow but not to crack the concrete as they grow. Tree root systems are very important in the Green Streets plan. Green Streets proposes to use permeable concrete to reduce the flow off streets and to capture trash that was on the road in the filter system. An example of their project concepts can be seen on Cole Grade Road in Valley Center.

Green Streets sees several projected benefits including better quality water at all levels of the water flow. There should also be benefits to the community because of more greenery which will make everything look nicer. This will also improve the environment. Green Streets also postulates that there are economic benefits to the plan.

Since this is the concept and planning phase of the project, they are evaluating approximately 1200 roads to determine which roads should be addressed first. They have identified 30 possible projects. They are currently focusing on areas he defined as "Villages" and some rural locations. They currently see projects in Fallbrook on South Mission Road and Spring Valley on Sweetwater Road, which he described as an underserved community. There is a project in the Mapleview area of East County which was actually started before Green Streets was formed.

The Green Streets plan is scheduled for completion in the spring of 2022, with the first project under construction in 2025. Construction, in general, will take one year per project.

For more information go to www.greenstreetscleanwater.org. Rene also provided several other URLs which people might be interested in viewing. Specifically, www.projectcleanwater.org, and www.sandiegocounty.gov/stormwater.

During the presentation, Rene often used the term “Underserved Community”, but did not define it, so Judy asked him to provide the group with a definition or at least an example of where Bonita fits into the definition. Rene did not have a specific definition but said there are many criteria including demographics, income and census data. After discussion, it became apparent that Bonita was not being considered for any Green Streets effort. Judy asked Rene to “not forget us” because she believed that the Eastern part of Bonita is underserved.

Harriet Taylor referred to rock shown in several pictures. The rock was between the street and the sidewalk. She was concerned that children walking along the sidewalk would pick up the rocks and throw them (i.e., weaponize the rock.). Rene took the comment for consideration.

Mike Seiler was interested in the funding stream for the project, and whether any road maintenance funds would be used. Rene indicated that Green Streets was funded with a different fund than the Roads. Discussion indicated that Green Streets was in the category of “5 Year Capital Improvement Projects”. Thus, it seems as if Green Streets would have to compete with other projects for funding. Rene also indicated that Green Streets does not control private residential projects such as housing developments. Led by Jamie Tobitt, the SVCA group thanked Rene for the presentation.

Continuing Business:

Updated Community Contact List. Judy indicated that the telephone list of important numbers has still not be completed and that she would work with Andrew to ensure that the list is completed.

County Grant to SVCA. Tony reminded everyone that he had signed the Grant Agreement letter but had indicated disagreement with one of the clauses in the agreement. He also penned a letter to the county explaining why he disagreed with the indicated clause. In both cases, Judy approved his actions. Tony and Judy hand-delivered Tony’s letter and the Agreement letter to the County. Subsequent, the County revised the clause in question and provided a revised agreement letter. Tony signed the new Grant Agreement letter after receiving Judy’s approval. Judy and Tony then hand delivered that Agreement letter to the county. Tony signed all the communications with the County because the County has put Tony “in charge” of the grant.

Community Forum:

Bonita Alliance—Lisa Martin Goodsell was unable to attend.

Traffic/Roads – Mike Clowers indicated that Proctor Valley Road has a significant number of potholes that need to be repaired. Also, that Briarwood Rd, a road in heavy use, also was in a state of disrepair and needed attention. He completed by saying there is a lot of needs in the community that seem to be going unfulfilled. Harriet Taylor talked about a significant amount of trash along the north side of Bonita Road. She postulated that maybe the Boy Scouts Judy had talked about in a previous meeting, might be instrumental in taking on that project.

	County:	Chula Vista:
Pothole repairs, graffiti removal,	(877) 684-8000	(619) 397-6000
Burned-out streetlights:		
Illegal dumping:	(858) 694-2212	(619) 397-6000

Planning Group – Steve Stonehouse reported there was no Planning Group meeting in January, but the February meeting agenda, as currently planned, will include the Quarry Road Storage Facility. The meeting will be held at the Bonita Valley Community Church. While not available now, the information on the Quarry Road project will be available before the meeting. Harriet Taylor reported that the Ace Storage Facility is not currently on the Planning Commission’s docket, but a scoping letter is expected near the end of January.

Membership – Sharon Coleman gave a membership update. Org/Profit Partner - 4, Org/Non-Profit Partner- 6 (includes 1 Gold), Silver/Family- 1 Family- 20, Individuals- 13, Gold- 19. She also mentioned the various costs associated with membership: Gold \$250, Silver \$100, Family \$25, Individual \$15, and Organizations \$50. She also briefly discussed her best practice marketing procedure which is “door to door” because you need to make connections. A discussion followed with Susan agreeing with Sharon and adding that we need to make better use of our Neighborhood Directors. Susan said she would like to be a neighborhood director and Judy agreed to send Susan Mike Clower’s email address and in return send Mike Susan’s email address. Mike Seiler talked about the Bonita Alliance and members in that group and about communicating with other Bonita Groups, perhaps even communicating with high school students. Tony indicated that a large portion of the grant was for community outreach and that one part had an interface to grade schools in the area. Other discussion items referenced Facebook. The thought was expressed that Facebook is not the best way to reach prospective new members.

Sr. Volunteer Patrol - Jim Woodford reported the previous Chief Administrator had retired. He was pleased to report the position has now been filled by Steve Lanier. Some activities were limited due to Covid.

Jim emailed these the following statistics.

DECEMBER 2021 SHERIFF SR. VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES	YEAR-END REPORT	
Hours on patrol	168	1,208
Number of Patrols	14	101
Number of Miles Driven	956	6,743
Vacation Checks	0	58
YANA Visits	0	0
YANA Calls	31	335
Citizen Assists	8	27
Traffic Control	4	35
Front counter Safety Center	36 hours	177 hours
Number of Volunteers	11	11

Trails: Mike Kukuchek. Mark was not available. Judy mentioned she had not received any updates regarding Tieber Trail.

Final notes: Judy told us she had reached out to two sheriff candidates—Kelly Martinez and Dave Myers. She received an interested response from Kelly but no response from Dave. She

will work to set up Candidate Martinez for the February meeting. If that doesn't work out, she will contact the new Chula Vista Golf Course Manager.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Anthony P. Tieber
Secretary, SVCA

Mission Statement: The Sweetwater Valley Civic Association is the direct conduit to local County elected and appointed officials, law enforcement and emergency first responders to discuss and resolve issues related directly to our quality of life within the Sweetwater Valley communities.